



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Friday 25th April 2025 at St Bonaventure's Hall, Egerton Road, Bristol BS7 8HP

Present Tony Jones (Interim Chair, Management Committee) and Committee members Joe Baxter, Pete Bill, Jan Davies, David Evans, Sian Hampson, Phil Hopkins, Joe McSorley, Steve Morgan, Sarah Newns, Dominic O'Dwyer, Cathy Rice, Kirstin Whimster and 34 additional H&DAA members.

Part 1 – 7.30pm Small group discussions

Welcome and introduction

The meeting was opened and all members were welcomed by the Interim Chair of the Management Committee Tony Jones. All members were invited to join a table for a small group discussion facilitated by members of the Management Committee. The two questions for discussion were:

- What is working well in your field?
- What could be improved in your field?

A member of the Management Committee took notes at each table and a couple of points from each table were shared with the room.

A summary of all of the points made follows:

What is working well in your field?

- Mentors
- WhatsApp group
- Spare tools, especially wheelbarrow
- Security
- Water troughs
- Maintenance
- Hedge management – volunteers
- Work parties - emails

What could be improved in your field and is already working on another field?

- More communication to/from field reps including opportunities to volunteer
- WhatsApp group (social one anyone can contribute to, announcement one only for use by field rep)
- Field reps to meet new tenants
- Mentoring system for new tenants
- Emails inviting volunteers for work parties, 2/3 times a year
- Plot numbers/boundary markers
- Reduce rents for new tenants where plot is in poor condition
- Social events
- Communal space for ploholders to meet and chill out
- Used hessian coffee sacks can be obtained at nominal cost and sold to members for ground cover.

What other things could be improved in your field

- Monthly email to share updates
- Nominated people overseeing particular things, e.g. hedging
- Improved drainage (Golden Hill)
- Composting loo
- Clarity on wood/rubbish pile Baptist 1
- More wood chip deliveries at top end of Golden Hill site
- Compost deliveries at top of Golden Hill, with payment through HDAA bank account or via QR code.
- Individuals not maintaining plots
- Communal paths not safe, especially Birchall
- Neglect process on website
- Not closing gate
- Dog waste
- HDAA to arrange a discount at garden centre
- AGM broadcast via Zoom for members who cannot attend in person

The points for improvement will be discussed at an upcoming meeting of the Management Committee and updates on actions agreed and carried out will be reported in H&DAA newsletters and website and fed back at the 2026 AGM.

Part 2 – 8pm Formal AGM business

- 1. Apologies** Committee members Neil Pirie, Steve Soffe, Helen Appleton and Jamie Darke and 14 other members of the Association.
- 2. Minutes of the 2024 AGM.** Susan Carter proposed these be approved, Tim Hobbs seconded and the Minutes were agreed.
- 3. Matters arising** Steve Sheldon noted that people occasionally write in before the AGM with reports or proposals not discussed at the AGM, and requested that in future the Committee share details of those proposals with the AGM minutes.
- 4. Report from the Management Committee** Tony Jones introduced the previously circulated report from the Management Committee which covered the activities and priorities for the Committee over the last year. The overall picture was of a well-run association with sound finances and good cash reserves. Tony paid particular tribute and expressed huge thanks to three members of the Committee Neil Pirie, Pete Clee and Steve Soffe who had all stood down from officer roles after many years of service to the Association.
- 5. Annual accounts and Treasurer's report** Phil Hopkins introduced the previously circulated report which covered the financial year ending 30th September 2024. As the Interim Chair had already indicated, Phil reiterated that the Association's finances were in good shape. Turnover is up, establishment costs are down, and capital spend is in line with our financial strategy. Due to the size of our budget we do not need to be formally audited, but the accounts need to be officially approved by our accountants and then filed with Company House, all of which is in hand.
- 6. Election of H&DAA directors.** Two new directors were proposed for election, Sian Hampson, field rep for Grahams Telecom, and Steve Morgan, field rep for Longs. Phil Hopkins proposed and Steve Sheldon seconded and their election was agreed. Three existing directors were proposed for re-election: Dominic O'Dwyer (Longs), Joe McSorley (Baptist), Joe Baxter (Birchall). Debbie Bradley proposed, Steve Sheldon seconded and their re-election was agreed.
- 7. Presentation of prizes by Field Reps Kirstin Whimster & Sian Hampson.** The prizes (£25 gardening vouchers) for individual best progress in first year in each field were awarded in person to: **Isobel Jenkins and Anthony Fung** (Birchall) and **Sas Bland** (Grahams (Telecom)). Apologies were received from the remaining reward recipients, and their prizes will be delivered: Phil Loney (Baptist); Rachel Phillips & Matthew Barton (Birchall); John Albaran (Davies);

Andrew Blayney (Grahams (Telecom)); Julian & Anne Zadanowski (Longs); Ben & Sarah McLewis (Longs); Patrick & Sally Adams (St Agnes).

8. **Any other business** There was no other business so Tony Jones closed the meeting at 8:45 pm.